

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 676

By Watson

A RESOLUTION to honor and recognize the staff, nurses, physicians, and administrators of Parkridge East Hospital on the occasion of the hospital's thirty-fifth anniversary.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should recognize those exemplary medical institutions and their remarkable personnel who, through their unwavering commitment to excellence, are credits to this State; and

WHEREAS, one such notable institution is Parkridge East Hospital, which has provided quality healthcare to the citizens of East Ridge and the Chattanooga metropolitan area for thirty-five years; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Bill Rowe, along with East Ridge City Manager Gene Drakeford and Dr. James Royal, set out to establish a top quality hospital in East Ridge in 1969; and

WHEREAS, it would take two groundbreaking ceremonies to get construction of the 128-bed full service hospital underway; the first was held in 1969 and, after a few setbacks and delays, the second groundbreaking ceremony took place in 1972; and

WHEREAS, the facility opened as East Ridge Community Hospital in 1974 as part of the Humana network of 52 hospitals in the Southeast and Southwest; built with a \$3.6 million bond issue, the new hospital opened with 100 employees and helped deliver 45 babies in its first month; and

WHEREAS, in 1980, the hospital added a two-story patient tower; three years later, three labor and delivery suites were added, along with CT scanning services; laboratory and emergency services were also expanded; and

WHEREAS, 1984 saw the opening of the East Ridge Doctors Building and the addition of the north wing of labor and delivery; and

WHEREAS, numerous facility improvements were made over the next several years, including the expansion of the Neonatal Intensive Care Nursery, the addition of obstetrics, three labor/delivery/recovery rooms, a refurbished obstetrics nurses station, and an in-house CT scanner, along with the renovation and expansion of the laboratory and emergency departments; and

WHEREAS, other East Ridge Hospital milestones include the opening of the East Ridge Fitness Center and the addition of the Professional Building in 1989, improvements to the dining room and renovation of the main lobby in 1991, neonatal intensive care, main entrance and hallways, expansion of electrical equipment room and replacement of the fire alarm system in 1992, and the opening of the Galen Office Building in 1997; and

WHEREAS, in continuing to provide the best possible health care for their patients, East Ridge Hospital undertook further improvements in 1998, refurbishing obstetrics, recreating the Emergency Care Center, adding sixteen private treatment rooms, an ambulance entrance, five new labor/delivery/recovery rooms, a new second nurses station, and a new main entrance, lobby, and business offices; and

WHEREAS, also, in July of 1998, East Ridge Hospital received the highest rating from the Joint Commission on the Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO) for the third consecutive year; and

WHEREAS, further improvements completed that year include the construction of a new business office annex, a new MRI suite, and the opening of The Breast Cancer Center at East Ridge Hospital, which added stereotactic breast biopsy procedures to an already expansive list of services; and

WHEREAS, in 1999, an \$8 million expansion and renovation included the new Emergency Care Center and a revamped and expanded Women's Center; and

WHEREAS, latest improvements include mobile diagnostic cardiac catheterization, a renovated endoscopy suite with high definition video equipment, robotic surgery, and digital mammography; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee is fortunate to have such an excellent resource as Parkridge East Hospital, whose 400 employees and 285 physicians strive to exceed their patients' expectations with the highest quality and most compassionate care possible; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly is privileged to recognize Parkridge East Hospital for its countless contributions to the well-being of the citizens of Tennessee; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and recognize the staff, nurses, physicians, and administrators of Parkridge East Hospital on the occasion of the hospital's thirty-fifth anniversary, and wish them all the best in their future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.